AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [0002] as follows:

[0002] ~~Stone sawing consists of sliding stone blocks over a series of horizontal strips, each of which is submitted to 90,000 N, without moving away from the vertical plane and with a longitudinal movement, which is almost horizontal, of up to 800 mm in width and a downward arrow of up to 20 mm. Both the blocks and the strips are coated with sludge, which consists of 44% in volume of small stone and steel particles, less than 2.4% of useful grit and lime water with a lime excess in suspension of up to 1%. Useful grit is defined as that oscillating between the maximum size and sizes bigger than 50% of the maximum size. Grit consists of very hard steel particles, almost spherical or angular in shape, obtained by means of the irregular breakage of bigger particles. The sludge is used to keep the grit in suspension, to remove stone particles from the scores produced by the stone sawing procedure and as a cooling agent. Another activity would be plate cutting or the cutting of plate pieces with steel disks which have been peripherally coated with diamond particles. These disks spin at great seep while they advance and they are cooled with water. The procedure is very noisy and can be heard at a distance of several kilometres if adequate protection is not used. Stone sawing involves an oscillating movement which exerts pressure on the grit, whereas cutting consists of a spinning movement without grit.~~ Patents 200100842/2, PCT9400009, ES9801558, ES99100102, PT101357=IT1261207, P20020010 and others describe the sawing process with fine, soft powder sludges and other improvements. However, it was not possible to apply these techniques under normal sawing conditions, i.e. with sludges containing between 120 and 180 g of grit with a diameter of between 0.4 and 1 mm, to

machines with semi-rectilinear strip movement, with a long course, between 700 and 800 mm, and short relative camber, between 25 and 30 mm, although they work very well with machines with a course of 320 mm and 16 mm of camber. Using fine, soft powders in machines with semi-rectilinear movement only allowed 30% advancement or a 30% lower power requirement. In both cases, the noise was almost the same as without the fine, soft powders; i.e. that the strips continued to drag and rub directly against the stone.

Please amend paragraph [0006] as follows:

[0006] **The problem.-** The noise from the sawing process, as it is carried out nowadays, is due to the strip rubbing straight against the stone. ~~High-pitched noises in stone sawing are those in which the prevailing sound frequencies are above 1,600 Hz, whereas low-pitches ones are those in which frequencies below 200 Hz prevail.~~ It sounds like "chaa, chaa,...", more than 90db at 1.5m, and is a high-pitched noise. This friction may not occur along the whole length of the strip, or all the time the strip is pressing against the stone. When the strip is not rubbing against the stone, but merely leaning on the grit, which lies between the lower edge of the strip and the bottom of the slot, which works as a score that works as a linear ball or roller bearing, the noise sounds like "ruoon, ruoon,...", less than 70 db at 1.5m, and is a low-pitched noise. This low-pitched noise is due to the stone and the grit breaking, when the latter moves under sufficient force for the pressure of the grit on the stone to exceed the stone's resistance to compression and the steel in the grit and thus break the stones.

Please amend paragraph [0020] as follows:

[0020] In the few experiments that have been carried out, the conclusions demonstrate that concentrations of 250 to 400 gr of actual grit per litre of sludge are recommendable in some cases. However, given the variety of machines that are used and the great variety of stones that are cut, this parameter must be confirmed by experiment. Because there are no recorded cases of the use of more than 190g of actual grit, and the concentration be comprised between the maximum size and 40% of the maximum per litre of sludge are considered to be useful, concentrations of more than 210g/l are claimed. ~~It has been also verified that for each useful grit content in the sludge there is a corresponding maximum possible sawing advancement without high-pitched noise. The is a certain proportion between these two parameters, between certain limits and under equal conditions with regard to other circumstances. It is possible to achieve greater sawing advancement with high-pitched noise, but it also involved higher energy and strip consumption.~~